

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 031426

R 050310Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7721

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS - PUSHTUNISTAN

REF: A) KABUL 7326; B) ISLAMABAD 9332 (NOTAL); C) ISLAMABAD 9313 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ADCM NOV 1, DIRECTOR FIRST POLITICAL DEPT MFA GHAFAR (FARAH) ACKNOWLEDGED GOA HOLDING FIVE PAKISTANI SCOUTS WHO RECENTLY CROSSED AFGHAN BORDER NEAR SPINABLDK. IN RESPONSE ADCM QUERY WHETHER CORSSING HAD BEEN INADVERTENT WHILE SCOUTS WERE PURSUING SMUGGLERS, GHAFAR STATED PURPOSE OF CROSSING NOT CLEAR SINCE FIVE SCOUTS WERE IN JEEP ON GRAVEL ROAD (NOT IN OPEN COUNTRY) AND CROSSED BORDER IN CLEAR VIEW NEARBY AFGHAN GENDARME BUILDING. FIVE CONSISTED OF DRIVER AND FOUR ARMED SCOUTS WHO OPENED FIRE ON AFGHAN GENDARMERIE AFTER CROSSING BORDER. AFGHAN GENDARME WOUNDED AND LATER DIED. GHAFAR CLAIMED THAT AFGHAN GENDARMES DID NOT RETURN FIRE BUT SURROUNDED VEHICLE AND SCOUTS SURRENDERED. FIVE
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PAKS ARE CURRENTLY IN KANDAHAR WHERE INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY BY

AFGHANS TO DETERMINE REASON FOR INTRUSION AND TO DECIDE COURSE OF ACTION. HE SAID NO DECISION WOULD BE REACHED UNTIL FULL REPORT OF INCIDENT IS AVAILABLE IN KABUL. IN RESPONSE ADCM OBSERVATION HE UNDERSTOOD PREVIOUS PRACTICE HAD BEEN RETURN EACH OTHER'S PERSONNEL WHO INADVERTENTLY CROSSED BORDER, GHAFAR RESPONDED HE WAS NOT AWARE OF PAST PRACTICE AND REITERATED DECISION ON RETURN WOULD BE BASED UPON FULL REPORT.

2. GHAFAR MENTIONED PAK ROAD BUILDING IN MOHMAND AREA AND ASKED WHAT EMBASSY HAD DONE AS RESULT DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH'S DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT WITH CHARGE (REF A). ADCM RESPONDED THAT WE HAD REPORTED ABDULLAH'S COMMENTS. GHAFAR ASKED IF WESDAD NOT INITIATED DISCUSSION WITH GOP AND URGED THEM TO CEASE AND DESIST. ADCM STATED THAT SUBJECT HAD COME UP IN CONVERSATION IN ISLAMABAD DURING TOUR D'HORIZON BETWEEN US AND PAKISTANI REPRESENTATIVES AND THAT GOP HAD STATED THIS WAS INTERNAL PAK AFFAIR AND THAT CONSTRUCTION WAS FOR ECONOMIC, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL, REASONS.

3. GHAFAR ASKED WHAT COULD BE DONE TO CURB THIS AND OTHER PAKISTANI ACTIONS WHICH GOA FOUND ESPECIALLY TRYING. ADCM ASKED WHETHER GOA HAD CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL EMISSARY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GOP AT HIGH LEVEL. GHAFAR SAID THIS WAS POSSIBILITY BUT DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IDEA. ADCM PRESSED MATTER AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD SEEMMO BE EXCELLENT AVENUE FOR ESTABLISHING BETTER DIALOGUE WITH GOP SINCE GHAFAR HAD EARLIER TACITLY ADMITTED THAT AMBASSADORIAL ROUTE WAS NOT PRODUCING EXCHANGE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE QUESTIONS. GHAFAR THEN STATED HE HAD SEEN A REPORT SOMEWHERE THAT PRESIDENT BHUTTO HAD RECENTLY STATED HIS DESIRE VISIT AFGHANISTAN FOR DISCUSSION WITH AFGHAN LEADERS. SURPRISINGLY, HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH WAS AWARE OF THIS STATEMENT. ADCM SUGGESTED GOA SHOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF INVITING BHUTTO TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN IN ORDER THAT CURRENT SUSPICIONS REAGRDNING PUSHTUNISTAN COULD BE REMOVED BY FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSION BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS. GHAFAR DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER HE WOULD FOLLOW THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

4. GHAFAR THEN REPEATED WHAT HE HAD EARLIER TOLD ADCM REGARDING AFGHAN DESIRES IN RELATION PUSHTUNS IN PAKISTAN AND GOA POLICY WHICH HE SAID HAD NOT CHANGED IN COURSE OF LAST MONTH. HE CONCLUDED

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PRESIDENT DAOUD WAS STILL FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL AFGHAN POLICY. ADCM ASKED IF THIS MEANT POLICY ESTABLISHED 1964 LOYA JIRGAH WHICH COMMITTED GOA TO ESSENTIALLY PEACEFUL SUPPORT OF PUSHTUN ASPIRATIONS WITHIN PAKISTAN OR WHETHER HE MEANT THEN PRIMIN DAOUD'S POLICY OF EARLY 60S. GHAFAR LOOKED QUIETLY AT ADCM FOR FEW SECONDS AND THEN ASKED QUESTION ON DIFFERENT SUBJECT.

5. COMMENT: ADCM HAD IMPRESSION GHAFAR WAS BEING HONEST AS FAR AS

HIS KNOWLEDGE WENT, BUT THAT GHAFAR WAS NOT FULLY CURRENT IN
THINKING ATSLIGHTEST LEVELS GOA. EVEN THOUGH GHAFAR DID NOT
ANSWER KAY QUESTION PARA 4 ABOVE, IT SEEMED CLEAR HE BELIEVES GOA
PRESENT POLICY IS BASED ON 1964 LOYA JIRGAH DECISION. AS
LBASSY ISLAMABAD HAS DONE, WE HAVE CLEARLY SIGNALLED GOA THAT
BEST COURSE TO RESOLVE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE IS BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS
BETWEEN PARTIES CONCERNED RATHER THAN ASKING FRIENDS TO BE INTER-
MEDIARIES OF ANY SORT. GHAFAR'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE CANNOT BE
TERMED FAVORABLE BUT IT SIGIFICANT THAT HE DID NOT REJECT IDEA
AND IN FACT INITIATED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE BHUTTO VISIT
(ALTHOUGH NOT IN VERY POSITIVE MANNER). WE EXPECT HAVE
OPPORTUNITY PURSUE IDEA OF DIRECZE DISCUSSION BETWEEN TWO IN OTHER
MEETINGS IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
LEWIS

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